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Established 1957

5 JANUARY 2025 | ISSUE NO: 5435

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CONFIDENCE IN 2024 OPTIMISM IN 2025 ¡Vamos bien!

Christmas Shopping, GST-Free

Record Tourism

Education Working

Jobs Accessible

San Pedro Hospital Underway

Agriculture & Food Security

Resilient Infrastructure

"believing, for the first time in a generation, that opportunity and hope match their ambitions... 2024 has truly been a year of Belizean triumph."

– Prime Minister John Briceño, New Year's Message

2024 PlanBelize Year in Review

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Belizeans Win A Million Dollars

14 WINNERS HOLD 3-4-4-6

People's Boledo Working for Everyone

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Major Crime Down; Murders 2nd Lowest in 19 Years

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BELIZE Social Investment Fund

Supporting Key Infrastructure Projects

■ Pg. 2

CONFIDENCE IN 2024 OPTIMISM IN 2025 ¡Vamos bien!

A Happy New Year Belize! Belizeans all over are feeling the sensation of a new year as has not been felt lately. Things Good!...is the remark that one can hear everywhere either in words or in action. The farms are definitely on the tables and good paying jobs are everywhere to pick, choose, and refuse as we Kriol Belizeans like seh. The joy or Christmas is ongoing and many have a second ham and second turkey wow. Wherever you are in the jewel be safe, be sound and do not over it as January 2 is not Boxing Day….back to Building Belize. Back to work!

As we ring in this new year, there is an exultation for Belizeans whose prospects of a better Belize is true in a most genuine way. In 2025 it is easier to look into a mirror and nod out a resolution. When the prospect of a positive future is very hopeful then our dreams evolve into resolutions that craft out dynamic plans which are executed and lived in the real. Each Belizean's own self-fulfilling prophesy is higher than it has ever been before as their confidence in Belize match their life ambitions.

People's confidence is high that their work is meaningful. As they look at 2025, Belizeans know it is an election year and their 2020 confidence in a planBelize administration that has gained root and growing a hopeful life. Similarly, Belizeans will confidently go to the polls and elect to keep their present life of winning. (Editorial Excerpts)

BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.

Fi WE Belize!

"One & A Million Anniversary Jackpot " Redemption

December 21 - The celebratory event is over and as anticipated there have been multiple winners with the number 3-4-4-6. In celebration of its one-year anniversary, the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. announced the Million-dollar raffle to commemorate its special occasion. The event was the establishment of a one-time raffle game solely intended for this purpose.

The BGGL happily announced "there were 14 winning tickets and that the $1,000,000.00 Jackpot prize will be shared equally among the 14 winning tickets. Each winning ticket will be eligible to redeem a prize of $71,428.57.

As we go to print on the New Year Winners three winners holding the 14 winning tickets have yet to redeem their winnings. By area the winners are Corozal 1, Orange Walk 4, Cayó 2, South 1, and Belize City 6. One each from Cayo, South and Belize City are left to claim their jackpot.

Tickets were available for sale as of Monday, November 4, 2024 from any BGLL sub-agent countrywide. Ticket sales ended on Friday, December 20, 2024, at 9:00 pm and the drawing took place on Saturday, December 21, at 10:00 am.

Customers selected a 4-digit sequence (similar to the jackpot), with each ticket priced at $5.00. The jackpot prize was 1 million dollars. In the event that there was more than one winner, the prize winnings were to be shared between all winners and this is what happened.

Prizes must be redeemed at the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd.'s office located at 11223 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City during normal working hours. Please take note of our holiday opening hours.

The first comment on social media was a hope that this is done every year which is coincidentally the same that is being said for the GST weekends, and the entire planBelize experience. Let's do it again! Vote!

BELIZE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

Supporting Key Infrastructure Projects

December 31, 2024 - From 2020 to 2024, the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) has been at the forefront of development initiatives, making strides in education, healthcare, water supply, and infrastructure. Collaborating with international financial institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), World Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), BSIF has implemented projects that address critical needs and uplift communities nationwide.

Advancing Education

BSIF has played a pivotal role in improving educational infrastructure. Projects such as the construction of the St. Michael's Roman Catholic Primary School in Belmopan, valued at $1.4 million, and the Santa Cruz Government Primary School in Orange Walk District reflect the fund's commitment to modernizing facilities. These structures, built with accessibility in mind, feature state-of-the-art classrooms, offices, and recreational spaces, benefiting students, teachers, and the broader community.

Additionally, BSIF facilitated laptop donations to various schools, equipping students with Dell Latitude devices to enhance their learning experience. This initiative underscores the fund's effort to integrate technology into education, ensuring students are prepared for a digital future.

Expanding Access to Clean Water

Ensuring access to safe water has been a cornerstone of BSIF's mission. Projects like the San Jose and San Pablo Water System in Orange Walk and the Libertad and Concepcion Village Joint Water Supply System have improved water quality and reliability for thousands of households. By upgrading distribution networks, installing water meters, and integrating solar-powered systems, these projects have enhanced community resilience and health outcomes.

In the Toledo District, the Crique Jute and Mabil Ha water system projects have transformed rural water access, providing sustainable solutions for over 900 households. Training programs for water board members further ensure the systems' long-term sustainability.

Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure

BSIF's investments in healthcare facilities have significantly improved access to medical services. The Belmopan Polyclinic, inaugurated in 2022, is a prime example. Spanning 7,600 square feet, the facility includes specialist consultation rooms, mental health units, and a dental clinic. Similarly, the Crooked Tree and Caye Caulker health centers now offer modern amenities, including disaster-resilient designs and backup water systems, ensuring uninterrupted services even during emergencies.

Climate-Smart and Sustainable Development

Through initiatives like the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP), BSIF has fostered environmental sustainability. This World Bank-funded project promotes climate-smart agriculture, supporting farmers with resources, training, and infrastructure to enhance productivity while addressing climate challenges.

Water management initiatives, such as the IDB Water Disinfection Project and the New River Pilot Project, are critical to ensuring public health and environmental sustainability. These programs enhance water quality in underserved areas and address longstanding pollution issues.

Looking Ahead

The achievements of BSIF over the past four years underscore its vital role in national development. As Belize enters 2025, ongoing projects such as the Dorothy Menzies Child Care Center in Belmopan and the Santa Cruz Rural Water System highlight a continued commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Belizeans. These initiatives not only provide immediate benefits but also lay the groundwork for sustainable, long-term development.

BSIF's unwavering focus on education, health, and infrastructure illustrates its mission to transform Belize into a nation of opportunity, equity, and resilience. By addressing pressing needs and fostering partnerships, the fund continues to build a brighter future for all Belizeans.

The Belize Times

The Truth Shall Make You Free

serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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Printed and Published By
TIMES NEWSPAPER LTD.
Tel: 280-8385
#3 Queen Street
P.O. BOX 506
Belize City, Belize
Email: belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

CONFIDENCE IN BELIZE

As we ring in this new year, there is an exultation for Belizeans whose prospects of a better Belize are confirmed most genuinely. In 2025, looking into a mirror and nodding out a resolution will be more straightforward. When the prospect of a positive future is very hopeful, our dreams evolve into resolutions that craft dynamic plans executed and lived in reality. Each Belizean's self-fulfilling prophesy is higher than ever as their confidence in Belize matches their life ambitions.

In his New Year's Address, the Prime Minister outlined the outlook for winning for Belizeans. With 98 out of 100 people looking for employment getting one, it is understandable that businesses matched the sales of the two GST-free weekends with sale activity on the days that followed when GST was regular; Christmas Eve was a buying frenzy. The confidence level makes Belizeans hungry to spend more as their incomes are higher, unlike the spending inability during the economic collapse of the Barrow administration. The thousands of Belizeans paying less income tax are already counting on an increased purchasing power. MSMEs and larger business houses are salivating and sprucing up advertisement gimmicks to attract this new capital. With more available jobs and opportunities, we are living in safer communities. The police are more efficient in a more labour-driven community and thus law-abiding. Everyone educates our workforce, especially the highly progressive Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology. Belizeans are less anxious about their health as 2025 brings the life-changing major hospitals in San Pedro/Caye Caulker, Belmopan, Belize City, and Punta Gorda matched with a truly National Health Insurance funded by a transparent and accountable people's Boledo. The Prime Minister noted that people are confidently believing, for the first time in a generation, that opportunity and hope match their ambitions.

Belizeans have been triumphant in 2024 and can see a clear path to greater personal growth and achievement in 2025. PM Briceño has proved that the best social program is to create an economic environment where education, job availability, and accessibility are matched with land and housing accessibility. People's confidence is high because their work is meaningful. As they look at 2025, Belizeans know it is an election year, and their 2020 confidence in a planBelize administration that has gained root and growing as a hopeful life continues. Similarly, Belizeans will confidently go to the polls and elect to keep their present life of winning.

en Español

CONFIANZA EN BELICE

Al entrar en el nuevo año, los beliceños se sienten exultantes al ver confirmadas sus perspectivas de un Belice mejor. En 2025, mirarse al espejo y asentir a una resolución será más sencillo. Cuando la perspectiva de un futuro positivo es muy esperanzadora, nuestros sueños evolucionan hacia resoluciones que elaboran planes dinámicos ejecutados y vividos en la realidad. La profecía autocumplida de cada beliceño es mayor que nunca, ya que su confianza en Belice coincide con sus ambiciones de vida.

En su discurso de Año Nuevo, el primer ministro esbozó las perspectivas de victoria de los beliceños. Con 98 de cada 100 personas en busca de empleo que lo consiguen, es comprensible que las empresas igualaran las ventas de los dos fines de semana sin GST con la actividad de venta en los días siguientes cuando el GST era regular; la Nochebuena fue un frenesí de compras. El nivel de confianza hace que los beliceños tengan ganas de gastar más, ya que sus ingresos son mayores, a diferencia de la incapacidad de gasto durante el colapso económico de la administración Barrow. Los miles de beliceños que pagan menos impuestos ya cuentan con un mayor poder adquisitivo. Las microempresas, las PYME y las grandes empresas están ansiosas por atraer este nuevo capital. Con más empleos y oportunidades, vivimos en comunidades más seguras. La policía es más eficiente en una comunidad con más mano de obra y, por tanto, respetuosa con la ley. Todo el mundo educa a nuestra mano de obra, especialmente el Ministerio de Educación, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnología, muy progresista. Los beliceños están menos preocupados por su salud, ya que 2025 trae consigo los grandes hospitales de San Pedro/Caye Caulker, Belmopán, Ciudad de Belice y Punta Gorda, que les cambiarán la vida, junto con un verdadero Seguro Nacional de Enfermedad (NHI) financiado por un Boledo popular transparente y responsable. El primer ministro señaló que, por primera vez en una generación, la gente cree con confianza que las oportunidades y la esperanza están a la altura de sus ambiciones.

Los beliceños han triunfado en 2024 y pueden ver un camino claro hacia un mayor crecimiento y logros personales en 2025. El primer ministro Briceño ha demostrado que el mejor programa social es crear un entorno económico en el que la educación, la disponibilidad de empleo y la accesibilidad se correspondan con la accesibilidad a la tierra y a la vivienda. La confianza de la gente es alta porque su trabajo tiene sentido. Cuando miran hacia 2025, los beliceños saben que es un año electoral, y su confianza del 2020 en una administración del PlanBelice que ha echado raíces y que crece con esperanza continúa. Del mismo modo, los beliceños acudirán con confianza a las urnas y elegirán para mantener su actual vida de victorias.

Ministry of Rural Transformation
Community Development, Labour and Local Government

Nº 5163 University Boulevard, Belmopan
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(501) 802-0671
info@labour.gov.bz
www.ruraltransformation.gov.bz

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Consultancy Services for the Comprehensive Review of the Labour Act in Belize

PURPOSE:

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government is inviting proposals from qualified consultancy firms to conduct a comprehensive review of the Labour Chapter 297, Revised Edition 2020.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY:

The objective of this consultancy is to engage a qualified consultancy firm to conduct a comprehensive review of the Labour Act, Chapter 297, Revised Edition 2020, with the aim of modernizing the Act and streamlining related legislations. This includes identifying areas for improvement, preparing recommendations for legislative changes that align with current labour standards and Belize's evolving needs, and drafting the necessary amendments.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

(i) **Inception Report:** Submit a detailed work plan, methodology, and timeline for the review process within two weeks of contract signing.

(ii) **Situational and Policy Analysis Report:** Prepare an in-depth assessment of the current Labour Act, and related legislations based on public and stakeholders' consultations, interviews and a thorough desk review of key documentation, national regional, and international legislative records and any other relevant materials obtained through independent research using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

(iii) **Conduct Public and Stakeholders Consultation:** Coordination with the Labour Act Review Committee, the Ministry of Labour and representatives of the ILO, to conduct consultations with social partners and national stakeholders.

(iv) **Drafting of the White paper and the and Modernized Labour Act:** Prepare multiple drafts of the modernized Labour Act and overseeing the consultations conducted regarding these drafts.

(v) **Presentation of Draft Legislation:** Present the draft legislation to key stakeholders, including the Review Committee, Ministry of Labour, and the ILO.

(vi) **Final Report and Legislative Draft:** Produce a final version of the Modernized Labour Act.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND ELIGIBILITY OF CONSULTANCY FIRM

Consultancy firms seeking to undertake this consultancy must ensure that team members within the firm possess the following:

- A Law Degree (LLB) with at least ten (10) years of post-qualification experience in practicing law in Belize or the Caribbean, including experience in employment law.
- Demonstrated experience in legislative drafting and legal reform processes.
- A member in good standing with the Belize Bar Association or a recognized home-country Bar Association.
- In-depth knowledge of Belize's legal system, including the Labour Act and other labour laws, as well as familiarity with CARICOM Model Laws.
- Strong knowledge of Labour Market and Labour economics.
- Understanding of ILO Conventions and their application.
- Strong analytical, research, and communication skills.
- Ability to conduct qualitative and quantitative research.
- Experience in facilitating public and stakeholder consultations.
- Proficiency in English and Spanish.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Sound judgment, strategic thinking, and the ability to manage competing project activities.
- Ability to produce high-quality outputs within time and budget.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Each proposal should consist of the following:

1. **Curriculum Vitae:** A CV (2 pages maximum) highlighting the consultancy firm's experience in similar projects. It should include:
   - A summary of professional and academic qualifications, with emphasis on experience in legislative drafting, labour law, and legal reform.
   - Examples of previous work where the firm has led or contributed to the drafting or modernization of legislation, particularly in labour or employment law, Rule of Law, legal frameworks, CARICOM Model Law, knowledge of government processes, social dialogue, industrial relations, ILO Conventions, Recommendations and Protocols, and supervisory systems.
   - Detailed experience in stakeholder engagement, particularly in conducting consultations with diverse groups.
   - Relevant samples of work and/or hyperlinks to published material.

2. **Cover Letter:** A letter detailing the firm's interest in the position and its suitability for the role. It should outline the firm's understanding of the project scope and how its background aligns with the project's needs. Additionally, the letter should describe the proposed approach to managing the review and modernization of the Labour Act, including any unique strategies or methodologies. The letter should also indicate the firm's availability for the duration of the consultancy.

3. **Technical Proposal:** This should include a brief methodology, including the firm's approach to reviewing existing legislation, conducting stakeholder consultations, drafting new legislation, and finalizing the legislative framework. A draft timeline for the key deliverables (see section VI, paragraphs (i) to (iv) of the Terms of Reference) should be included. The proposal should also detail how the firm will ensure adherence to international labour standards while aligning with Belize's legal and socio-economic context.
   - The consultancy is expected to begin in March 2025 and complete the project by March 2026.
   - The schedule and method for stakeholder consultations will be determined jointly after the selection process, based on stakeholder availability.

4. **Price Proposal:** A price proposal that includes all consultancy fees and related expenses. Meetings and workshop costs will be covered by the Ministry.

5. **References:** Provide at least three professional references from previous clients or employers who can attest to the firm's capabilities in legal drafting and legislative review. Include contact details for each reference.

6. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

7. The full Terms of Reference may be requested from labour.comm@labour.gov.bz.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
All submissions must be made by 31st January 2025 at 4:00pm to:

Labour Commissioner
Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government, 5163 University Boulevard, Belmopan City, **CAYO**

Citizens Safer than Ever

Briceño Administration's Crime Strategy Yields Results, Plans for Further Progress in 2025

Over the past four years, the Briceño Administration's Ministry of Home Affairs led by Hon. Kareem Musa has demonstrated a firm commitment to addressing crime in Belize. As 2025 begins, the government remains steadfast in its efforts to create a safer and more secure nation for all Belizeans. Investments in citizen security have led to significant progress, but the administration acknowledges that the work is far from complete.

Commissioner of Police Chester Williams, in his New Year's message, highlighted key achievements and outlined plans for the coming year. *"Reducing the number of major crimes from 1,074 in 2023 was our main priority,"* Williams stated. *"I can proudly report that overall major crime dropped from 1,074 to 910, a decrease of 15.3% in 2024. While we celebrate this achievement, we remain disappointed with the 89 murders recorded, though it is the second-lowest count in 19 years."*

Looking ahead, the Belize Police Department aims to sustain and enhance these gains. Initiatives for 2025 include constructing new police stations in San Ignacio's Kontiki Area and Orange Walk's Trial Farm Area, refurbishing existing facilities under the CABEI Program, and decentralizing services for better community access.

A new Road Policing Unit, launching this month, will target traffickers and smugglers, ensuring safer highways. Additionally, a Special Constable Program will mobilize volunteers to support law enforcement, while traffic officers will focus on reducing road fatalities through strict enforcement.

The department also plans to work closely with the Leadership Intervention Unit (LIU) and other organizations to provide opportunities for gang members willing to transition to productive lives.

As Belize steps into 2025, the Briceño Administration and the police are committed to building on past achievements and fostering a nation where safety and opportunity prevail.

Kontiki Community Police Substation

This is another example of the Cayo North community working with Area Representative Michel Chebat in tandem with the Government and the Belize Police Department. The effort will make reality greater security for the Kontiki community and thus the wider Cayo.

Special thanks to the Belize Natural Energy Charitable Trust for their support in making this project a reality.

BNE: "The **Belize Natural Energy Charitable Trust** is proud to contribute to this transformational initiative by donating $**100,000.00** toward the construction of the substation. This project aligns perfectly with the Trust's mission to empower communities and improve the quality of life for Belizeans across the country.

We congratulate the Kontiki community on this milestone and look forward to seeing the positive impact this substation will have for years to come. Together, we are building stronger, safer communities!"

MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SDU
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MSDCC)

Tender: CONSULTANCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT (SDU)

Deadline for submission: January 10, 2025

Background:

Established in 2013, the SDU coordinates Belize's sustainable development efforts, promotes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and fosters inclusive and environmentally sound practices. To strengthen its role, the SDU seeks to develop a comprehensive Strategic Framework and Action Plan aligned with national, regional, and international sustainability commitments.

Main Objectives:

• This consultancy aims to develop a five-year Strategic Framework and Action Plan to enhance SDU's efficiency, effectiveness, and alignment with the MSDCC's Strategy 2023-2027 and beyond inclusive of a defined vision, mission, goals, and priorities.

For Terms of Reference which lists further Tasks, Scope of Work, and process of proposal submission, kindly request via email at dir.susdev@environment.gov.bz with CC to procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz

DELIVERING DREAMS AND KEEPING PROMISES - PLANBELIZE HOMES

"It is an honor to hand over the keys to a deserving individual who exemplifies resilience and hope. This home is more than just walls and a roof—it's the realization of a dream, a testament to promises kept, and a foundation for a brighter future." - Hon. Ramon "Monchi" Cervantes

The stories of Minister including the Prime Minister handing over these homes abound. The exhilaration and outpour of joy is priceless. Hon. Julius Espat can take all the credit for the push towards making these homes a reality but he never does. He shares this credit with everyone and mostly the recipients who patiently wait for their turn.

Ahead are a FEW pictured of the approximately 600 homes that have been delivered with more coming up.

PRIME MINISTER John Briceño New Year's 2025 Address

My fellow Belizeans,

The festive transit to the new year is upon us. These are days of celebration, family cheer and reflection. As we stride to 2025, tradition beckons us to review our performance during the closing year while picturing our prospects for the year ahead. For sure, even the scoffers would concede the manifold victories that Belizeans can confidently claim at this year's finish line:

- **our people are working;**
- **earning higher incomes;**
- **paying less taxes;**
- **living in safer communities;**
- **benefitting from improved education and health care;**
- **and believing, for the first time in a generation, that opportunity and hope match their ambitions.**

As Prime Minister, my pledge to Belizeans has been clear from the start of our journey together: optimism and opportunity will propel all Belizeans to win. And 2024 brought about multiple wins, big and small. Allow me to mention just a few of the big ones.

Belizeans are winning when the vast majority who seek employment can find high-paying jobs. National data shows that 98 out of every 100 who seek work, can now find well-paying jobs.

Belizeans won when government recently raised the brackets of those who pay zero income taxes and removed the GST for property transfers and mortgages.

Belizeans are winning when all fees and costs at every public health clinic in the country have now been eliminated.

And Belizean entrepreneurs have won special status with the targeted duty and tax exemptions that automatically apply to micro, small and medium enterprises.

Some wins take more time to secure, for example, inflation. Government heard the complaints about the cost of living. And Government has acted forcefully against price-gougers and acted decisively to provide relief. Our commitment to lowering the cost of living is why our bakers and public transport operators and farmers have all received some level of subsidy and relief. And in spectacular fashion, Belizeans capped the year with a first-ever tax holiday – four days, two weekends before Christmas, where shopping is done without paying any GST, a 12.5 percent reduction to prices countrywide. The sum of our efforts is the reason why the latest estimate shows price inflation contained to only 2.1 percent.

2024 has truly been a year of Belizean triumph.

Let me be clear though: these many achievements have not dimmed our Administration's desire to work even harder in 2025 to deliver on the virtuous goals of #Plan Belize.

Yes, poverty has been halved compared to 2018 but any Belizean that's poor is one too many.

Yes, thousands of housing and farming plots have been awarded but this Government's push to place valuable, titled land in the hands of first time land owners will not relent.

2025 will witness the construction start of the new state-of-the-art tertiary care hospital in Belmopan that will elevate public health care to new levels of excellence. And, the new year will bring the final phase in the realisation of a truly national health insurance program so that every Belizean, including residents of the Cayo District, benefit from free public health care.

Our push for a higher quality and more accessible education programs will intensify in 2025, as will our already aggressive program of infrastructure improvements, including streets, roads, drains and bridges, particularly in our villages and towns.

Altogether, Belize is better positioned than ever before to soar to enriching heights. Our reputation as a world-class tourism destination, the results of which show in the massive visitor growth of recent years, has blossomed now to a destination for investment, for retirement and for commercial access to CARICOM and Central America. In a world seemingly beleaguered by conflict and chaos, our precious jewel glitters ever brighter as a model of stability, diversity and sustainability. Beyond the stunning accomplishments and statistics, what most heartens me as we soar into 2025 is to witness the winning spirit of our people. In these brief few years of enabling the private sector, of pushing back against apathy and corruption, of engaging in good faith collaboration with public servants and teachers, we sense and see the transformative impact of our people's remarkable resilience.

In this first phase of Plan Belize, we gave birth to an age of self-belief and optimism that seemed impossible 4 years ago. Today, any win is possible, any dream achievable.

Government, in this new year, will continue to champion higher individual and institutional standards, conscious that as public servants, we must lead by example. We also know that 2025 brings with it the promise of elections, a time when we must first give an account of our performance over the past five years and offer our vision for building on #PlanBelize. We remain confident that the best version of Belize lies ahead of us and with the guidance of our creator we will move forward.

Vamos! Vamos Bien!

To every Belizean, I extend the very best wishes for a safe, sparkling strut into 2025. May the Almighty continue to lavish our people and country with his abundant blessings.

Happy New Year to all.

PRIMER MINISTRO John Briceño Discurso de Año Nuevo 2025

Compatriotas beliceños,

El tránsito festivo hacia el nuevo año está sobre nosotros. Son días de celebración, alegría familiar y reflexión. A medida que nos acercamos a 2025, la tradición nos invita a revisar nuestro desempeño durante el año pasado y a imaginar nuestras perspectivas para el año venidero. Sin duda, hasta los burlones reconocerían las múltiples victorias que los beliceños pueden afirmar con confianza en la línea de meta de este año:

- **nuestra gente trabaja;**
- **obtienen mayores ingresos;**
- **pagan menos impuestos;**
- **viven en comunidades más seguras;**
- **se benefician de una educación y una sanidad mejores;**
- **y creen, por primera vez en una generación que las oportunidades y la esperanza están a la altura de sus ambiciones.**

Como Primer Ministro, mi promesa a los beliceños ha sido clara desde el principio de nuestro viaje juntos: el optimismo y la oportunidad impulsarán a todos los beliceños a ganar.

Y 2024 trajo consigo múltiples victorias, grandes y pequeñas. Permítanme mencionar sólo algunas de las grandes.

Los beliceños ganan cuando la gran mayoría de los que buscan empleo pueden encontrar trabajos bien remunerados. Los datos nacionales muestran que 98 de cada 100 personas que buscan trabajo pueden encontrar ahora empleos bien remunerados.

Los beliceños ganaron cuando el gobierno elevó recientemente los tramos de quienes no pagan impuestos sobre la renta y eliminó el impuesto sobre bienes inmuebles para las transmisiones patrimoniales y las hipotecas.

Los beliceños ganan cuando ahora se han eliminado todas las tasas y costes en todas las clínicas de salud pública del país.

Y los empresarios beliceños han ganado un estatus especial con las exenciones específicas de derechos e impuestos que se aplican automáticamente a las microempresas y a las pequeñas y medianas empresas.

Algunas victorias tardan más tiempo en conseguirse. Por ejemplo, la inflación. El Gobierno escuchó las quejas sobre el coste de la vida. Y el Gobierno ha actuado enérgicamente contra los que suben los precios y ha actuado con decisión para aliviar la situación. Nuestro compromiso de reducir el coste de la vida es la razón por la que nuestros panaderos, operadores de transporte público y agricultores han recibido algún tipo de subvención y ayuda. Y de forma espectacular, los beliceños culminaron el año con las primeras vacaciones fiscales de su historia: cuatro días, dos fines de semana antes de Navidad, en los que se puede comprar sin pagar el impuesto de bienes y servicios (GST), lo que supone una reducción del 12,5% de los precios en todo el país. La suma de nuestros esfuerzos es la razón por la que la última estimación muestra una inflación de precios contenida en sólo el 2,1%.

2024 ha sido realmente un año de triunfo beliceño.

Pero permítanme ser claro: estos numerosos logros no han atenuado el deseo de nuestra Administración de trabajar aún más duro en 2025 para cumplir los virtuosos objetivos del #Plan Belice.

Sí, la pobreza se ha reducido a la mitad en comparación con 2018, pero cualquier beliceño que sea pobre es uno de más.

Sí, se han adjudicado miles de viviendas y parcelas agrícolas, pero el impulso de este Gobierno para poner tierras valiosas y tituladas en manos de propietarios primerizos no cejará.

2025 será testigo del inicio de la construcción del nuevo hospital de atención terciaria de Belmopán, que elevará la atención sanitaria pública a nuevos niveles de excelencia. Y el nuevo año traerá la fase final de la realización de un verdadero programa nacional de seguro de salud (NHI) para que todos los beliceños, incluidos los residentes del distrito de Cayo, se beneficien de una asistencia sanitaria pública gratuita.

En 2025 intensificaremos nuestro impulso a programas educativos más accesibles y de mayor calidad, al igual que nuestro ya agresivo programa de mejora de infraestructuras, como calles, carreteras, desagües y puentes, sobre todo en nuestros pueblos y ciudades.

En conjunto, Belice está mejor posicionado que nunca para alcanzar cotas enriquecedoras.

Nuestra reputación como destino turístico de categoría mundial, cuyos resultados se manifiestan en el crecimiento masivo de visitantes de los últimos años, ha florecido hasta convertirse en un destino para la inversión, para la jubilación y para el acceso comercial a CARICOM y Centroamérica. En un mundo aparentemente asediado por el conflicto y el caos, nuestra preciosa joya brilla cada vez más como modelo de estabilidad, diversidad y sostenibilidad. Más allá de los asombrosos logros y estadísticas, lo que más me anima ahora que nos adentramos en 2025 es ser testigo del espíritu ganador de nuestro pueblo. En estos breves años de capacitación del sector privado, de lucha contra la apatía y la corrupción, de colaboración de buena fe con los funcionarios públicos y los profesores, percibimos y vemos el impacto transformador de la extraordinaria resistencia de nuestro pueblo.

En esta primera fase del Plan Belice hemos dado a luz a una era de confianza en uno mismo y de optimismo que parecía imposible hace 4 años. Hoy, cualquier victoria es posible, cualquier sueño alcanzable.

El Gobierno, en este nuevo año, seguirá defendiendo normas individuales e institucionales más estrictas, consciente de que, como servidores públicos, debemos predicar con el ejemplo. También sabemos que 2025 trae consigo la promesa de elecciones, un momento en el que primero debemos dar cuenta de nuestro desempeño durante los últimos cuatro años y ofrecer nuestra visión para construir sobre el #PlanBelice. Seguimos confiando en que tenemos ante nosotros la mejor versión de Belice y, con la guía de nuestro creador, seguiremos adelante.

¡Vamos! Vamos Bien!

A todos los beliceños, les deseo lo mejor para el 2025. Que el Todopoderoso siga colmando a nuestro pueblo y a nuestro país con sus abundantes bendiciones.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos!

Hon. Anthony Mahler and the Belize Tourism Board

Pre-New Year's Day Cycling Classic 2024

Fans and supporters witnessed a display of talent and endurance today at the Pre-New Year's Day Cycling Classic which started in Orange Walk Town and ended in Belize City.

Congratulations to all the riders who made this event unforgettable.

Elite Category
1st - Jaylen Briceño
2nd - Derrick Chavaria
3rd - Jyven Gonzalez
4th - Byrone Pope; 5th - Jafari Castro; 6th - Atlee Lozano

Female Category
1st - Kaya Cattouse
2nd - Francine Gogli
3rd - Iranie Baki

Junior Category
1st - Jaylen Briceño
2nd - Tamron Morris
3rd - Richie Rosado

THANKSGIVING MASS
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

JOSEPH ALEXANDER BENNETT

SUNRISE: MARCH 14, 1929 | SUNSET: DECEMBER 26, 2024

" The heart of the man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps "
Proverb 16: 9

Funeral Services at
St. Joseph Church
Belize City, Belize
Monday, January 6, 2025
at 2:00 pm
Interment: Homeland Memorial

BMETS
Biomedical Equipment Technical Solutions

WE'RE
HIRING
Biomedical Engineers & Biomedical Technicians

Qualifications :

- Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or related field and 1+ years of experience servicing medical equipment
- OR 4+ years of experience servicing medical equipment
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- Capacity to resolve problems
- Able to work flexible hours and ability to travel
- Team player
- Speaks English and Spanish

Send your Cover Letter and CV to :
admbmetsbelize@gmail.com
6236 Bay Street, Belize City, Belize

For more information :
+501-627-5694 or +501-630-9127

JOIN US NOW

Suspected NWS in Toledo

Given the suspected case of the NWS in Toledo the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise along with BAHA has net on December 30 to elevate already proactive measures. Emergency Response Team meeting held with representation from MAFSE, BAHA, OIRSA, IICA and BLPA.

All hands on deck and all partners at the table to continue working together in response to NWS suspected case, first for Belize.

Press release:

Suspected Case of New World Screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax) Identified.

Release on December 28, 2027

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and the MAFSE inform the public that a suspected case of New World Screwworm (NWS) is being investigated in the southwestern Toledo District. BAHA has dispatched technical teams to conduct the investigation and the public will be advised of the progress.

Producers, transporters, and the public are reminded that preventative measures include regular inspection of animals, early notification, wound curing, and controlled animal movement. Key points to remember include:

- Immediately report all cases of myiasis (infestation of wounds by larvae) to the nearest BAHA or MAFSE office or healthcare provider.
- Ensure small stock and livestock are physically inspected and have an NWS Health Inspection Certificate and Movement Permit before any movement occurs.
- Ensure movement of all small stock and livestock occurs during daylight hours.
- Declare all animals (including pets) upon arrival at an Animal Movement Control Point.
- Import animals only with the approval and authorization of BAHA.
- DO NOT import animals through a non-established point of entry and border crossings.

Any person who contravenes the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Statutory Instrument 143 of 2024: New World Screwworm Prevention, Control, and Eradication Regulations commits an offense and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both such fine and terms of imprisonment.

BAHA and MAFSE remind its partners, stakeholders, and the public that this highly prolific and devastating parasite has continuously spread through Central America primarily due to the illegal movement of animals.

Cases of suspect larval infestations in animals can be reported to the BAHA Animal Health Department offices at 824-4872 in Central Farm, 302-1388 in Orange Walk, or via WhatsApp at 670-7003.

For further information, email the Animal Health Department at an imalhea lth @b ah a.org.bz or call 824-4872.

STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of GLENNFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a ANTHONY GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ANTHONY GODFREY Deceased, of #6623 Mahogany Street, Belize City, Belize.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the **Estate of GLENNFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a ANTHONY GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ANTHONY GODFREY** deceased, of **#6623 MAHOGANY STREET, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE** who died on the 17th day of September, 2021 in whose estate a Grant of Administration has been granted to **KARIM GIOVANNI GODFREY,** the lawful administrator of **#100 Bristlecone Street, Western Pines, Western Paradise Village, 8 Miles George Price Highway, Belize District,** on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof **AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN** that at the expiration of the said three months the said **KARIM GIOVANNI GODFREY** shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said, **GLENNFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a ANTHONY GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ANTHONY GODFREY** deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

DATED this 10th day of December 2024

GLENN D. GODFREY & COMPANY LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for
VALARIE ANN FRANCIS
Administrator of the Estate of GLENNFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ALVIN GODFREY a.k.a ANTHONY GODFREY a.k.a GLENFORD ANTHONY GODFREY

FIVE KEYS
TO SAFER FOOD
KEEP CLEAN
• Wash your hands before handling food and often during food preparation.
• Wash your hands after going to the toilet.
• Wash and sanitize all surfaces and equipment used for food preparation.
• Protect food from insects and other animals.
USE SAFE WATER AND RAW MATERIALS
• Use safer water or treat it to make it safe.
• Select fresh and wholesome foods.
• Wash fruits and vegetables, especially if eaten raw.
• Choose foods processed for safety, such as pasteurized milk.
SEPARATE RAW AND COOKED
• Use separate equipment and utensils such as knives and cutting boards to handling meat, poultry, seafood, and other raw foods.
• Store raw and prepared foods in separate containers.
COOK THOROUGHLY
• Cook food thoroughly, especially meat, poultry, eggs and seafood.
• Bring foods like soups and stews to boiling to make sure that they have reached 70°C (158°F).
• Reheat cooked food thoroughly.
70°C
KEEP FOOD AT SAFE TEMPERATURES
• Do not leave cooked food at room temperature for more than 2 hours.
• Refrigate promptly all cooked and perishable food (preferably below 5°C (41°F)).
• Keep cooked food piping hot (more than 60°C (140°F)).
• Do not thaw frozen food at room temperature.
60°C
5°C
DANGER ZONE
PAHO

planBelize 2024 in Review

January 7 – Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño Delivers: Agreement brokered

This resolved the BSCFA-BSI impasse with a two-year commercial agreement, $1M Fairtrade aid for fertilizers, an economic port analysis within three months funded by GOB, and a Commission of Inquiry initiated in 30 days. These terms were delivered to BSCFA Chairman Elvis Reyes. It was finally signed a week later.

"We are one community, one People, One heart, one soul; we are Norteños. En las Buena y las no tan buenas" **- Thea Garcia- Ramirez, Chairman Northern Caucus**

January 14 – Access Road Groundbreaking to Corozal Freezone

"BZ$1,948,074.04 provided by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), with counterpart contribution of BZ$1,036,457.27 from the Government of Belize" The total positive impact that this road upgrade on the CFZ business and progress is immeasurably huge.

January 21 – Hybrid Micro-Grid Solar Photovoltaic System

On January 13, a consent agreement was signed between the Government of Belize and the village of San Benito Poite for a Hybrid Micro-grid Solar Photovoltaic System. Upon completion, this system is expected to provide reliable and affordable power for 115 households by generating over 100 kilowatt-peak (kWp) of electricity. This is one example of the many Solar Based Systems opened all over the country including those to pump water.

January 28 – Securing Sarstoon

Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of National Defence, echoed Prime Minister John Briceño's pledge to renovate the Sarstoon Forward Operating Base, bolstering a strategic presence. A few days after the Belize Defence Force Day, a helicopter landed at the base, symbolizing patriotism, and vigilance. Belize's borders, including the Sarstoon, Rio Hondo, and Exclusive Economic Zone, must be protected from incursions.

February 4 – The Haulover Replacement Opens

The Ministry of Infrastructure Development & Housing advised the public of the temporary opening of the New Haulover Bridge on the Philip Goldson Highway in Belize City to public vehicular traffic, commencing 1, February 2024. The Ministry wishes to make it known that the works under this project are not fully complete, however, this temporary opening is necessary to complete the tie-in of the new alignment to the Philip Goldson Highway and to facilitate necessary upgrades to underground public utility infrastructure (water, electricity communications). The later official inauguration completed the historic process of giving Belizeans better infrastructure. Why wait when the people's needs are present.

February 11 – BIBCAP – Realizing Belize's Business and Investment Potential

By 2030, Belize will be a competitive investment hub in Central America and the Caribbean. Since November 2020, the PUP government, led by Prime Minister John Briceño, has collaborated diligently with economic experts to rebuild the economy, overcoming inherited challenges and COVID-19 impacts to foster growth and development.

PM JOHN BRICEÑO
AND THE PUP
FAMILY
To ALL Belizeans
A Happy and Safe
New Year
2025

People's United Party 2024

Everybody Winning with planBelize

Quad Convention in OW Town

Massive Endorsement for Standard Bearers: PM Briceño for OW Central, Hon. Jose Mai for OW South, Hon. Kevin Bernard for OW East, and Hon. Monchi Cervantes for OW North. All the Party was present in support. This event culminated conventions for PUP Standard Bearers.

March to the Convention site

Presentation of Flags

Nomination of Candidates for Standard Bearers

Acceptance and Swearing-in

Tremendous Support

Bye-Election in Toledo East

Landslide win by the PUP's Osmond Martinez

PM in OW Central

Development of New Area by Petville

State of the Nation Address

Stronger, More Hopeful, and More Confident

March Municipal Elections saw 61 Seats Won by the PUP --Two of the Eight Won

Belize City Council

OW Town Council

National Party Council, 74th Anniversary of the People's United Party

Thirty-One Standard Bearers Presented, PUP Ready

Representing Belize around the World

Meeting with Pope Francis, after postponing 1st visit to attend to our Cañeros

Collaboration w/ President AMLO in Mexico City

Urgent Meeting in Cancun with Energy officials

MCC Compact signing: aid to the Education and Energy sectors

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

CHRISTMAS TIME, NEW YEAR'S TIME, ELECTION TIME COME AND A NEW MANDATE FROM THE PEOPLE TIME COME!

By Hilly Bennett

Belizeans celebrated one of the greatest Christmases ever this 2024 and entered the New Year 2025 with a renewed sense of hope. Considerably from, the economic environment created by the People's United Party Government, the John Briceño administration, the post-COVID-19 pandemic and the traumatic 13 years of the United Democratic reign of terror and incompetence. Much of the cherry-merry making was the result of the participation of the PUP constituency representative in the sharing and giving of Christmas cheer across the country. Adding to the festive season was the General Sales Tax (GST)-free weekends and the One and A Million BGLL draw which made 14 individual lives $71,000 richer. These various activities complemented the great initiatives implemented by the conscious-driven Briceño Government throughout 2024 to offset the pressures of the cost of living and the inflation trap. To pinch back at that phenomenon, the government, as last week's editorial submitted, reinstated the Teacher's Salary by 10 per cent and increment, increased the minimum wage to $5, Government subsidies to the bakers, and Bus Transport, and Tour Operators, Government absorption of taxes of diesel and regular gasoline, instituting of laws and regulations that support the MSMEs, and a school feeding program to 14, 750 students daily. This is a government that has realigned itself with its social justice philosophy and the party's motto to "Serve the People." However, political pundits, theorists, and scientists consider enhancing the Jewel's social fabric through the vigors of the social investments to be purely electioneering, bordering on clientelism.

Contrarily, the noble initiatives are the foundation of the PUP's social justice roots that are embedded in the Papal Doctrine the Populorem Progresso (Development of People) which had attracted both Leigh Richardson and Philip Goldson to the People's United Party in the beginning. The encyclical stated "The development of which we are speaking does not extend solely to economic growth. To be genuine, growth must be integral, it must clearly provide for the progress of each individual and of the whole man." Insofar as the country has experienced steady economic growth, these mechanisms have reduced poverty while increasing opportunities for the masses living on the margins and ensuring the development of all Belizeans, leaving no one behind. Interestingly, Dylan Vernon a professed advocate for political reform wrote the latest piece on his blog 'Time Come' titled "Turkeys and Ham! Is it but a scam?" insinuating that Christmas cheer is nothing but a political scam. Curiously, in a paper written by Vernon entitled "Commitment to Social Justice: The Start of Advocacy" presented at a public forum on September 26, 2007, at the Holy Redeemer Parish Hall, Vernon drew on what he considered timeless wisdom from a friend, that as members of our society, we always have to walk with both feet: the foot of charity and the foot of social change. And, that to only use one foot or the other would take us longer to get closer to social justice. Undeniably, the People's United Party is walking with both feet and is moving closer to its target of the true definition of social justice.

The country is now in election mode and the PUP machinery is oiled and ready when the General Election 2025 bell is rung. The political buzz from the electorate, especially the TruBlu party supporters, is that the PUP is assured another mandate to deliver more on the great achievements thus far. Achievements which must be attributed to Belize's principled democratic heritage. A democracy, suggested by the Father of the Nation, George Cadle Price, entails the essential principles of the rule of the majority with respect for the rights of the minority. This is democracy that is being strengthened by the People's United Party's political and constitutional reform process.

In February 2024, in a published article by the Economist, it suggested that in theory 2024 was going to be a triumph for democracy. It suggested that more people were expected to vote in national elections in 2024, than ever before. However, the projection was that 43 out of more than 70 elections were expected to be fully free and fair. While the Venezuelan re-election of President Maduro was considered rigged, our neighbor to the north, Mexico, elected the first female and Jewish President, President Claudia Sheinbaum, and, in the United Kingdom, there was the re-emergence of the Labor Party in their election of the UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer in elections that were considered free and fair.

2025 is THE election year for Belize, which has been lauded for its uninterrupted democratic heritage of free and fair elections. There is an expectation that there will be a super-high voter turnout and a clean sweep for the PUP pushing the opposition into the misery of the political wilderness. PUP, a government of the people, by the people, for the people!

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

IDB Inter-American Development Bank

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CONSULTING SERVICES

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT

Selection of an Individual Consultant

Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas
BL-L1045 (5753/OC-BL)

BL-L1045-P00011- National Consultancy to prepare approved electrical plan for rehabilitation works

1. The ***Government of Belize*** (the "Borrower") has *received* financing from the ***Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*** (the "Bank") toward the cost of ***Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas***. The ***Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF)***, an executing agency of the Borrower, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to perform the consulting services (hereinafter called "Services"): ***National Consultancy to prepare approved electrical plan for rehabilitation works.*** More details on the Services are provided in the Terms of Reference.

2. An individual consultant will be selected under procedures, in accordance with the Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Services financed by the IDB (GN-2350-15) which can be found at the following website: **www.iadb.org/procurement.**

3. Interested eligible consultants may obtain a complete set of documents and further information at the address given below from Mondays – Friday, ***8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*** **(Local Belize Time)**.

4. Your expression of interest accompanied by your curriculum vitae should be submitted by ***January 8, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)***, in writing to the address given below. The submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked ***"Expression of Interest – National Consultancy to prepare approved electrical plan for rehabilitation works."***

Address for requesting documents and information
Belize Social Investment Fund
Building C, 4253 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan, Belize
kyla.cho@sifbelize.org
C: **carlos.tun@sifbelize.org**

Address for submitting CV

Attention: Executive Director
Belize Social Investment Fund
Building C, 4253 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan, Belize
carlos.tun@sifbelize.org
c: **kyla.cho@sifbelize.org**
angeles.itzab@sifbelize.org

planBelize 2024 in Review

February 16 – San Pedro Hospital Contract signed: Construction has begun

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño and Mr. James Hsiao, General Manager of the Taiwan Overseas Engineering and Construction Company (OECC), signed a US$16,678,680 contract for the design, construction and equipping of a general hospital for San Pedro Town and Caye Caulker. This project is funded by a grant from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The Government of Belize and the Ministry of Health have been extremely busy: NHI to practically all the nation as Cayo is coming on stream in the first month of 2025, KHMH replacement, Polyclinics galore, SMART upgrades, Teaching/Tertiary Care Hospital in Belmopan, Plans for Punta Gorda Hospital already underway.

February 18 – MORE CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS, Mandatory Age for Attending School is 16

The Briceño administration and the Ministry of Education led by Minister Fonseca, announced raising the mandatory school age from 14 to 16. This initiative ensures more Belizean students stay in classrooms, fostering a more educated population and national progress. Together, we build a brighter future for Belize through education and collective development.

February 25 – BLUE WAVE All Across the Country… NOMINATION DAY

The People's United Party delivers it doesn't predict. The People's United Party plans it doesn't talk. The People's United Party serves the people it doesn't copycat on this PUP mantra. On February 17 the PUP glazed the streets of the municipalities with True Blue and great music from the talent in Belize. 'Stay Pan Track', the punta version, is a hit par excellence that energizes a crowd instantly and the people are really into the planBelize municipal teams.

March 3 – STAY PAN TRACK: Belizeans in Municipalities will Vote for BLUE Teams on March 6

On March 6 the people of Belize were ready! They are ready to put their opinions on a ballot. After three years of the PUP they were seeing clearly that they are better off than the thirteen years of UDP infamy.

March 10 – Right Pan Track: Seats to 6 UDP: A People's Affirmation of PlanBelize

'The people have spoken'… history will show that on March 6, 2024 the Belizean people gave its stamp of approval to planBelize and endorsed the People's United Party municipal candidates who pledged in different ways to follow this highly vaunted Northstar. All across the nation, candidates of the PUP were reelected with a high spirit of confidence that the positivity of their record would propel them to another successful term. And the people confirmed that they were right.

March 17 – Stayin on Track Budget; 1.51 Budget and No New Taxes

"…the polices pursued by this People's United Party administration are yielding unprecedented results for the Belizean people…" John Briceño, excerpt from Budget Presentation The most common of daily rules is 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'. Common sense then leads you to fix or discard broken items. Such rationalization can be applied to Belize's post-2020 politics and economics. Belize's social fabric was stained with the political nastiness of a Barrow administration that bred a cadre of megalomaniacs led by King Hubris himself.

March 27 – PM BROKERS AGREEMENT PORT-STEVEDORES

The GOB and CWU finalized a new Collective Bargaining Agreement, resolving disputes from sugar shipments to Big Creek. Stevedores received $1.5M compensation despite PBL's legal challenges. PM Briceño prioritized peace, meeting with CWU on March 18, 2024, to address concerns. Parliament voted to finalize the agreement.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
Beyond Health for All
CARPHA
CUT DOWN ON YOUR SALT
Add little or no salt when preparing your food
SHAKE the salt habit

planBelize 2024 in Review

March 31 – Belize Overnight Tourism: Smashes Records in 2024

Belize's tourism industry is thriving, with $1.4 billion in revenue projected for 2024. Tourism Minister Anthony Mahler highlights 11% growth, driven by sustainable practices, rich culture, and diverse attractions. January-February arrivals surged over 16%. From adventure in jungles and reefs to serene beaches, Belize offers unforgettable experiences for eco-conscious and leisure travelers.

April 7 – Poverty Down 10% Less

Belize's poverty rate dropped from 37% to 26% between 2021 and 2023, reflecting the impact of planBelize. Using the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index, supported by global organizations, poverty reduction efforts now address education, housing, childcare, and health insurance. Prime Minister Briceño aims for a 50% reduction by 2030.

April 14 – Census Complete, A Growing and Healthy Belize

More people have more access to a better quality of life. 400k Belizeans living in the Jewel; with Jobs, Light, Water, Owning Homes, and Trending Up The Census 2022 in complete, there are 397, 483 Belizeans up 25percent from the last 2010 Census. All indications spurred by previous Indices are that all our employable are fully employed. Why else count our population? We want to know what is the status of quality of life and that the planBelize administration has surely been doing wonders. The John Briceño administration has taken a Belize from recession to prosperity and beyond. Our young are becoming mature and the inference from the Census is that births are planned and that our females are working. The Census calls it infertility but that might need to be revisited.

April 21 – The Museum of Belize Open, and "It's just the Beginning"

The Museum of Belizean Arts displays a Booming Orange Economy. The Museum of Belizean Art. MOBA is OPEN and it is significant. It marks a significant milestone in Belize's cultural landscape. Housed within the historic Government House, MOBA is now part of the House of Culture. This new museum stands as a testament to the rich and diverse artistic heritage of Belize, showcasing a blend of artistic expressions that capture the essence of the nation's landscapes, societal narratives, and historical journeys.

April 28 – New Haulover: A Symbol of Progress, Unity, and Shared Aspirations

The Haulover Bridge Replacement Project, led by M&M Engineering Consultants Ltd., exemplifies national progress. Valued at BZ$30.99 million, the bridge connects vital routes, showcasing Belizean design and engineering. Originally built in 1818, it has evolved into a reinforced concrete structure, embodying modernization while honoring its historic role in timber transportation.

May 5 – Belize Honours Hon. Michael Joseph Espat

"He was a true embodiment of a man of service, a man that truly loves his people, and loved the work that he did." – PM John Briceño

30th April,2024 - A Special Joint Parliamentary Service was held in the Chamber of the National Assembly in the City of Belmopan. The Service was held in honour of Honourable Michael Espat, Member for Toledo East, who passed away on Monday, 22nd April 2024. Honourable Michael Espat was first elected in 1989 to the House of Representatives and was in his sixth parliamentary term with his last election in November 2020.

May 12 – Belize-Mexico Relations Flourish

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño's Mexico visit secured vital agreements on energy, trade, tourism, and transportation. Key outcomes include increasing the energy supply by twenty megawatts, expanding cattle and sugar exports, and advancing Tren Maya connections. Belize plans to exempt border fees for Mexicans, enhancing bilateral relations and addressing economic priorities. Meanwhile the Government and its MIDH opened the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrade project changing the lives of the immediate neighbours of Mexico. The PM and President were to meet again in Cancun.

SIF BELIZE Social Investment Fund

IDB Inter-American Development Bank

Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Belize

Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas

BL-L1045 (5753/OC-BL)

Purchase of 1 4X4 pick-up truck for the Program Executing Unit (PEU) of BSIF

The ***Government of Belize*** has received financing (hereinafter called funds) from the ***Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*** and intends to apply a portion of the funds to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this invitation is being issued.

The ***Belize Social Investment Fund*** hereby invites sealed offers from eligible and qualified Suppliers to submit a quotation for the following items:

Item Number	Item Description	Quantity	Place of Delivery
1	Pickup Truck Double Cab 4x4	1	Belize Social Investment Fund

Suppliers shall present their quotation including all items in the lot.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of this Request for Quotations Documents and further information at the address given below from ***Monday to Friday at 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (local Belize time)***.

This Request for Quotation (RFQ) shall be governed by the Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works Financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15.

The contract will be awarded to the Quotation determined to be substantially responsive to the Shopping Documents and represents the lowest evaluated cost.

Your Quotation should be sealed in an envelope and addressed to and delivered at the address given below by ***January 3, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (Local Belize Time)***. Electronic quotation is permitted.

Attention: ***Executive Director***
Belize Social Investment Fund
Building C
4253 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan
Belize
E-mail: carlos.tun@sifbelize.org
C: kyla.cho@sifbelize.org
angles.itzab@sifbelize.org

Late quotations will be rejected and returned to sender.

planBelize 2024 in Review

May 19 – Education Empowering A Nation: Itz'at A Pioneering Milestone

The Itz'at STEAM Academy, officially opened on May 10, 2024, marks a historic milestone for Belize's education system. Championed by your PUP government, pioneering competency-based learning, fostering innovation and real-world readiness. Honoring Maya heritage, Itz'at embodies Belize's commitment to advancing science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics for future generations. The Placencia Polyclinic was opened as well.

May 26 – NEMO Safely Managing Wildfires

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) inform that, as a result of wildfires affecting the community of San Pedro Columbia and adjacent communities in the Toledo District, a proclamation declaring a state of public emergency for the district was signed by the Governor General on May 19. The Prime Minister, Hon. Andre Perez, Minister of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management, and Hon. Oscar Requena, Area Representative for Toledo West, visited the area to assess the situation.

June 2 – Working Towards Stable Electricity

"President Lopez Obrador is committed to assisting us and we have the assurance that after the 2nd of June 2024, the supply from CFE will stabilize and, in addition, we have a commitment to extend the supply from CFE. We anticipate that the persistent load shedding we have been experiencing will abate once the gas turbine in San Pedro's commission and the supply from CFE stabilizes in June. Mr. Speaker in these 3 years, this government has done what was not done in the previous 13 years. We have positioned the energy sector to grow and to become more independent and more secure with the introduction of battery storage and solar power in our Energy mix." – Minister Michel Chebat, excerpts on statement at House of Representatives Sitting.

June 3 – Belize Beats Brazil

In a Historic 106-102 Victory, Belize's national Under-18 basketball men wins over Brazil in Belize's first appearance ever at the FIBA AmeriCup at the Obras Sanitarias Stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Monday, June 3.

It was a historic upset when considered that Brazil ranks 11th in the entire World and 3rd in the Americas; by comparison, Belize was not ranked even in the top 100 of FIBA's ranking, and had not ever competed at this level…

June 9 – Claudia Sheinbaum: The World Celebrates Mexico's Historic Choice For President

The election of Claudia Sheinbaum is regional history and it is definitely a part of Belize's history as well as we are well united as a region. This happened as PM Briceño was in El Salvador not losing the historic win of our Basketball team versus Brazil.

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SYSTEMS ANALYST

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Information Technology Department.

The Systems Analyst (SA) is responsible for the development, analysis, implementation, and maintenance of information systems in accordance with the Central Bank's development standards and tools. The SA ensures data confidentiality, integrity, and accuracy. The SA will also implement information systems software packages in support of core organizational functions following established guidelines.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Information Systems Development and Implementation:** Implements information systems according to established development standards and methodology.
- **Information Security:** Responds to security alerts and addresses information security infractions and violations; provides preventative and corrective actions.
- **Information Systems Maintenance:** Implements authorized changes to systems in production.
- **Disaster/Recovery:** Implements, tests, and maintains suitable backup and recovery measures for information systems.
- **Maintenance & Support:** Provides support for information systems and utilities, and level one support for system software, security software, data backup systems, and hardware.
- **Database Administration (DBA)**: Installs, configures, maintains, secures, and optimizes databases to ensure efficient and reliable data management.
- **Training:** Provides training on application and end-user software.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum qualification of a bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field from a recognized university. Relevant experience will be considered.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Possesses, applies, and maintains a high degree of knowledge in information technologies to deliver quality work; remains informed of the latest trends and developments in the discipline; knowledge of business and management principles, project management, information auditing, and information security; proficient in diverse software applications and operating systems; experience in DBMS, SQL, backup and recovery, performance tuning, security, scripting, data modelling; demonstrates cross-functional ability and desire for continuous self-improvement.

COMPETENCIES

- Managing Change, Fostering Innovation, Analytical Thinking, Diagnostic Information Gathering, Results Orientation, Flexibility/Adaptability, Conceptual Thinking, Attention to Communication.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 17 January 2025:**

- Central Bank Employment Application Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two Names of Reference (one must be from a previous employer)
- Copies of school transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Systems Analyst – Information Technology Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence)

planBelize 2024 in Review

June 16 – MSME Bill to Increase Access to Financing for Belizean Businesses

The Briceño administration prioritizes MSME growth, committing 20% of contracts to MSMEs by 2025 and passing the 2024 Movable Property Security Rights Act. MSMEs drive 50% of GDP and 70% of employment. At the 2024 MSME Roadshow launch, PM Briceño emphasized supporting equitable business growth across Belize.

July 7 – Historic Disabilities Bill Passes

The People's United Party and the Briceño administration were joined at the House of Representatives June 28 sitting by a cadre of Belizeans who were a part of the impetus for the passage of this bill. The monumental occurrence that epitomizes the essence of the social justice agenda of the George Price party and of planBelize is being lionized and savoured by everyone who calls themselves Belizean. Every Belize knows or is a relative of someone that lives with a disability.

July 14 – Public-Private Partnership

Public-Private partnership includes sharing information firsthand and cordial discussion of the issues. In this light, PM John Briceño this week met with the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a bellwether meeting that signals the planBelize success of Public-Private Partnerships. This success had been seen in Infrastructure, Housing, MSMEs, BPO's, Tourism, agriculture, and now with the BCCI. The meeting started off energetically with key discussions. Prime Minister John Briceño first congratulated the new Executive Council of the Belize Chamber of Commerce.

July 21 – PUP RISE, From 2020 Wave to 2024 Tsunami

"The PUP is united and after four years in office, the PUP is stronger than ever," – Toledo East's New Area Representative, Dr. Osmond Martinez after winning Toledo East bye-Election

June 23 – Real Climate Resilience

Hundreds of miles of road infrastructure held up to the unprecedented torrential rains pre-TS Alberto, yet, the "mainstream media" missed the story as they are wont to do. Coming in to government, the responsible PUP government closely supervised projects with an award-winning team. This MIDH project supervising led to savings without compromising the climate resilience on the Coastal Plain highway, Haulover Bridge, PGH/ Remate Upgrade and Caracol Roads. One-20m section of the Imerled Coastal Plain highway failed and the PUP is to blame?

For the most part infrastructure building practice has been lauded by International lending/granting partners and taxpayers alike. The "UDP pork" was cut off much to the chagrin of contracted UDP coffer stuffers. Yet, bad-minded news manufacturing is a cancer already engrained in at least one of the major news rooms who insult the Belizean people.

June 30 – Reducing Poverty Via Energy & Education

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) approved a US $125 million grant for Belize, targeting education and energy reforms. The $73.8 million Education Project enhances labour market competencies, while $21.1 million addresses high electricity costs. Belize's selection reflects its democratic commitment under PlanBelize. Implementation begins in 2025 over five years.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT ENGINEER (INDIVIDUALS)

Institution: **Ministry of Finance**
Country: Belize
Type of Engagement: Individual Consultant (IC)
Deadline: **Friday, January 17th, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) – (EXTENSION)**

The Government of Belize (GOB), with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has established a Central Executing Unit (CEU) within the Ministry of Finance as a structure to contribute to the effective delivery of the development goals outlined in Belize's Medium-Term Development Strategy, 2022-2026 (MTDS). The CEU is responsible for the coordination and implementation of various loan and grant projects and serves as the primary point of contact for all stakeholders involved in each project assigned to the CEU. This centralized unit provides an efficient and effective way to facilitate the management of the projects, ensuring that all phases are completed on time and on budget. Through the CEU it is envisaged that there will be enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders during project design and implementation. Furthermore, with the in-house procurement, financial, monitoring, evaluation and reporting expertise, the CEU should minimize project start up and learning curve delays in procedures and reporting requirements previously experienced due to lack of expertise in these areas.

The Ministry of Finance is now launching the process to fill a contractual position for the **Project Engineer**.

The Ministry of Finance invites eligible individuals to apply for the position of Project Engineer. For additional details, the required Application Template and Terms of Reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ . Interested individuals should apply using the Application Template to demonstrate they have met the required qualifications and possess the relevant experience to perform the services.

The selection for this contractual position will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and the Government of Belize policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications.

Qualified individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English via e-mail to rpascascio.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz and/or two (2) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating the positions you are applying for and name of consultant.

The Deadline for submission is no later than **Friday, January 17th, 2025, by 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)** No late submissions will be accepted. Hard copies of the application should be submitted to the following address:

Ruby Pascascio
Senior Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor
Belmopan City, Belize, Central America
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
Email: rpascascio.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Project Engineer -** Your name

Scan Here For More Details:

planBelize 2024 in Review

July 28 – Golden Girls, 400 Thousand Win Over 40 Million

On Saturday night, the Belize City Civic Centre was electrified as the Belize Under- 21 Women's Volleyball Team clinched their first-ever gold medal in the twentieth U-21 Women's Central American Volleyball Championship. This monumental victory marks a watershed moment in Belizean sports, proving that a small nation can achieve golden greatness at the regional level.

August 11 – Belize Secures, Multiple Wins in World Travel Awards 2024

The Tourism industry went from naught when the planBelize government was mandated by the people to the 2024 record-breaking arrivals and as an international award winning country. Mahler saw more than vaccinations as necessary injections; he wooed the airline industry to fly back and the cruise ship to sail back and the he rose hotels to world acceptable standards and Belize destinations were facilitated with even infrastructure. Should we mention the Orange Economy that he along with the Ministry of Economy and Investment built almost from scratch with the Belize International Music and Food Festival and example of the latest colossal success.

The country is adorned with billboards showing how the Ministry of Tourism and the Agriculture/Food Industry have worked in tandem to the benefit of farmers. Min. Mahler and the BTB are poised for tons more and the country will benefit. August 6, 2024: The World Travel Awards, the most prestigious and comprehensive awards program in global travel and tourism, recently published its 2024 winners for Central America. Belize has distinguished itself with numerous awards, highlighting its appeal as a top destination for unique and unforgettable experiences. Belize emerged victorious in multiple categories, showcasing its diverse offerings and exceptional appeal.

August 4 – Belizean Party, Dis Da fih We Time Now

'Belizean Party', the September 2024 beat, debuted like an Olympic athlete out of its blocks—hitting the ground speedily as this dah fih we time now. The Briceño planBelize promised goal of a Belize working for everyone has arrived and the song was inspired by the highly ecstatic state of the union. Weekend in and weekend out, Belizeans prove that they are contributing to a booming economy.

August 15 – MIDH inaugurates Banana Bank Road and Homes All over the Country

This is a small example of the gargantuan body of work the Government and Julius Espat's Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing has put forth. The space in this newspaper is not enough but one can go to the multiple centerfolds that have a couple hundred few pictures of the MIDH in every corner of Belize even on Sunday's and on Public and Bank Holidays. The MIDH workers of course deserve all the credit for heeding to the need for upgrades especially at the end of the year when Beryl, Nadine, and Sara tested them, the Belizean people and NEMO. The three passed.

The starter or modular or replacement homes that have been delivered to single parents have been weekly and unrelenting. One home delivered is magnanimous so multiplying that by 600 is immeasurable joy. Add to that the handing over of multiple homes just in time for Christmas is a surge of tear-jerking emotion.

August 18 – Orange Economy Surges: Unlocking Belize's Musical Soul/MSME's Get Grant Financing

"B.E.E.P., a project developed to address one of the greatest development challenges faced by MSMEs that is, access to finance" **– PM John Briceño**

"The Belize Music Project focuses on preserving Belize's rich musical heritage, while fostering innovative expression that bridges past traditions with future artistic endeavors, instilling cultural pride and identity" **– Hon. Francis Fonseca, MoECST**

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Independent Financial Literacy and Digital Financial Awareness Survey

Belize City, 11 December 2024: The Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank) notifies the public that it has contracted PPF Capital Limited to conduct an independent survey to assess financial literacy and digital financial awareness in the country. This initiative is a part of the Central Bank's continued financial education and inclusion efforts.

The team from PPF Capital will reach out to members of the public across the country to gather insights that will inform the Central Bank's strategic goal of modernizing the digital financial services ecosystem.

We encourage the public to participate in this survey and assure you that responses will be treated with strict confidentiality.

For more information, please contact info@centralbank.org.bz

Thank you for your valuable contribution.

planBelize 2024 in Review

August 25 – AGRICULTURE BOOMS: Trade, Camp, Show, Roads and more

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise under Minister Jose Abelardo Mai has been performing at near optimal capacity. Minister Mai is never satisfied with 100% and always pushes for numbers beyond the bar. This week his Ministry met with a high-level delegation from Mexico and had Summer Camp with kids, that truly is a spectrum. In between, MAFSE's push to keep us fed sustainably. They were everywhere from a Beef Fest, to Citrus Processor and Chicken Processor, and San Carlos.

September 1 – Record Boledo Sales: Millions for NHI and Sports

$72 Million Gross in 8 months | $14 Million Profit in 8 Months | $14 Million for the National Health Insurance, and Sports | $120 Million Gross Projected in 1year of Fih We Boledo

How much did Brads make in 10 years? Only 1 year is audited. Barrow's Brads paid only 2 Million in taxes a year.

In 2024, "Fih we Boledo" has been rewriting the lottery record books for Belize's traditional lottery over the past eight months. Belize di win! Windfall profits of 20million dollars will benefit the people of Belize like never before. Compare how the previous owners sponsored nothing not even a school bag. Today's Boledo stats indicate that Brads could have made much more than the one year they had to audit due to a lawsuit they pushed.

September 8 – Millennium Challenge Corporation, A Game Changer for Belize

The US $125 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Grant represents the largest single direct investment by the U.S. Government to Belize since Belize's independence.

The MCC and the GoB have partnered in a signing designed to change and uplift a generation and more of Belizeans. On November 11, 2020, Belize elected planBelize, a team of 26 service-oriented Belizean, and a future of progress never before seen in Belize. Unbeknownst to every Belizean, the world was watching our every step, our every move, and our every plan. The United States government, specifically, scoped and evaluated Belize for two years and our resulting scorecard awarded Belizeans the right to a compact destined to be a game and life changer. Education and Energy get 250 million dollars where it is needed much.

IDB

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR (1) PROJECT MANAGER AND (2) PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST (INDIVIDUALS)

Institution: **Ministry of Finance**
Country: Belize
Type of Engagement: Individual Consultant (IC)
Deadline: **Tuesday, January 7th, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time) – (EXTENSION)**

The Government of Belize (GOB), with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has established a Central Executing Unit (CEU) within the Ministry of Finance as a structure to contribute to the effective delivery of the development goals outlined in Belize's Medium-Term Development Strategy, 2022-2026 (MTDS). The CEU is responsible for the coordination and implementation of various loan and grant projects and serves as the primary point of contact for all stakeholders involved in each project assigned to the CEU. This centralized unit provides an efficient and effective way to facilitate the management of the projects, ensuring that all phases are completed on time and on budget. Through the CEU it is envisaged that there will be enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders during project design and implementation. Furthermore, with the in-house procurement, financial, monitoring, evaluation and reporting expertise, the CEU should minimize project start up and learning curve delays in procedures and reporting requirements previously experienced due to lack of expertise in these areas.

The Ministry of Finance is now launching the process to fill contractual positions for the following:

Vacant Posts
1. Project Manager
2. Procurement Specialist (2)

The Ministry of Finance invites eligible individuals to apply for the above-mentioned positions. For additional details, the required Application Template and Terms of Reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ . Interested individuals should apply using the Application Template to demonstrate they have met the required qualifications and possess the relevant experience to perform the services.

The selection for this contractual position will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and the Government of Belize policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications.

Qualified individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English via e-mail to rpascascio.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz and/or two (2) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating the positions you are applying for and name of consultant.

The Deadline for submission is no later than **Tuesday, January 7th, 2025, by 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)** No late submissions will be accepted. Hard copies of the application should be submitted to the following address:

Ruby Pascascio
Senior Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor
Belmopan City, Belize, Central America
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
Email: rpascascio.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Project Manager/ Procurement Specialist** - Your name

planBelize 2024 in Review

September 15 – Proud and Free: Concerts, Colors, & Fun showcase a Vibrant Nation

"Just as the victory at St George's Caye was not handed to them, the benefits of AI and other technological advancements will not come to us without effort. We must be proactive, we must be bold, and we must be willing to learn and adapt" **– Bernard Wagner, Mayor, Belize City**

The ceremonies highlighted our much debated history which adds to our lore. The DPM Cordel was on hand to witness the procedures.

September 22 – State of the Nation: Stronger, More Hopeful, and More Confident

"Effective January 1st., in support of employees, … all workers who earn less than $29,000 will be exempt from income tax. By increasing the income tax exemption threshold from $20,000 to $29,000, an additional 2,851 workers will no longer be subject to income tax. **– Prime Minister John Briceño**

The picture tells a tale of the future living the present in listening to our Prime Minister present to them a nation living up to the expectations of planBelize.

September 29 – Summit of the Future: Ensuring the Dignity and Needs of the People

Theme: "Leaving No One Behind: and Acting Together for the Advancement of Peace, Sustainable Development and Human Dignity for Present and Future Generations."

"We need to reimagine and remake this world into one that is just, secure and that will endure. One in which every voice matters, bringing the voices from the margins to the center; the voices of young people, women, indigenous people and the voices of countries like my own, the SIDS. They should benchmark our collective ambitions because a better tomorrow can only be realized if solutions respond to the most urgent of needs—their needs." **– Prime Minister John Briceño, Speech to the UNGA**

October 6 – President Sheinbaum Inaugurated as Mexico's First Female President & her 66th

"We look forward to a continued friendly, positively productive relationship with our northern neighbor." **– Prime Minister John Briceño**

October 13 – BPOs: 200 Million Dollar Industry; 17 Companies yearly pay $139 million in salaries

"The rapid growth experienced in the BPO sector over the past years is a result mainly of the country's relatively high population growth rate, a population which is young, skilled and in need of jobs, dependable, and excellent telecommunication infrastructure, and a government that supports the sector which it categorizes as a priority sector." **– Prime Minister John Briceño**

October 20 – Attractive for Tourists & Investors: Newsweek Magazine highlights Belize's Investment Climate and Opportunity

Belize was featured in the Newsweek issue of September 27,2024_ VOL. 183_NO. 08, which highlighted a myriad of sectors regarding the recent developments occurring in Belize. From a nation flush with opportunities to a forward-thinking tourism model and a rapidly evolving telecom industry and a country where sustainable development is at the heartbeat of Belize's plans to secure a bright economic future, submitted by the Newsweek journalist Adrian Black.

IDB

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

Supply and Delivery of Vehicle – Passenger Van -MBECA

Institution: **Ministry of Finance**
Country: Belize
Project: Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program
Loan No.: 5769/OC-BL
Type of Engagement: Vehicle
Process ID: BL-L1042-P00007
Deadline: **January 20, 2025;** 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received seven million US Dollars (US $7M) in loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program. The Central Executing Unit, Ministry of Finance, an executing agency of the Borrower, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to perform the purchase of Goods (hereinafter called "Goods"): ***Supply and Delivery of Vehicle – Passenger Van -MBECA.***

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible bidders to submit sealed quotation for the "Supply and Delivery of Vehicle" for the following:

No.	Item	Brief Description	Quantity	Lot #
1	Passenger Van	Passenger capacity 14 – Including the driver	1	1

Interested suppliers may obtain the complete Bidding Document by scanning the QR Code below. This Request for Bids (RFB) shall be governed by the Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works Financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15 and by the Government of Belize policies and best practices. The contract will be awarded to the Contractor determined to be substantially responsive to the RFB Documents and represents the lowest evaluated cost.

Suppliers should submit One (1) Original and Two (2) Copies in a seal envelope and delivered to the address below by **Monday, January 20, 2025, 10:00 am (Local Belize Time).** Electronic quotation is not permitted**. Late bids will be rejected.**

Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Flood, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
tjoseph.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

planBelize 2024 in Review

October 27 – MSME Access Loans: New Law Allows Movable Property as Collateral

"This legislation will allow small business owners, entrepreneurs, and even individual farmers to secure loans using their assets, such as equipment or crops. This approach will remove barriers to credit, creating more economic opportunities for Belizeans." **– PM John Briceño**

November 3 – iListos Ya! Northern Caucus Sets the Pace in Absolute Unity

In San Pedro this past weekend, the Northern Caucus of the PUP met. This was a working meeting that reassured the people that the People's United Party is READY to present itself for an Election even as the PUP-led Government of Belize governs with unprecedented transparency, accountability, high job availability, record financial investment, and tremendous economic growth. The nine representatives were joined by the three municipal Town Councils, Corozal, Orange Walk and San Pedro, who are fresh off their March 2024 mandate.

November 10 – 4th Anniversary PlanBelize Victory

The Party celebrates by announcing to the people a colossal announcement of a 1 Million Dollar to be raffles just before Christmas. The proceeds are of course earmarked from the onset for NHI and Sports. There is much to boast for but there is no time to talk about Education, Housing, Land, New Hospitals, Infrastructure, Jobs, Jobs, Jobs, and Economic Prosperity. There is much more to be done.

November 14 – Triple Gold Medalist Jair Hernandez

The Belize's delegation of athletes returned from the CODICADER Special Olympics with nine medals. Ten athletes with varying disabilities represented the country in Panama in various events last week. Participants were grouped into categories based on diagnoses such as intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, deafness, cerebral palsy, and visual impairment. Jair Hernandez placed first in the 100, 200, and 300-meter male races.

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Construction of Trio Bridge

Country: Belize
Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Assignment Title: Construction of Trio Bridge
Reference No.: RRB.W.15

The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Green Climate Fund ("GCF") towards the cost of Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the works for which this Request for Bids (RFB) is issued.

The work consists of: Construction of wooden deck bridge with concrete base in the Trio farming area, Trio Village, Toledo District.

Qualification of the Bidder: A Bidder shall meet the following minimum qualifying criteria:

a) General Experience as a Contractor: At least 5 years' experience in industrial/commercial buildings construction locally;
b) Specific Experience as a contractor: At least one works' contract of similar nature, size and complexity equivalent to the works included in this Invitation, completed within the last five years (to comply with this requirement, works cited should be at least 80% complete).
c) The contractor must prove access to the following equipment, with stated production capacity and year of manufacture:

Item No.	Name of equipment and production capacity	Capacity	No of equipment
1	Suitable scaffolding for working	at heights above 15 feet	1
2	Portable Generator (suitable to run power tools)	with minimum capacity of 1000 watts	1
3	cement mixer	with minimum capacity of ½ cubic yard	1
4	Dump truck	with minimum capacity of 15 cubic yard	3
5	Excavator	320 B or equivalent	1
6	Crane	5 ton	1
7	Pile Driving Equipment	Hamme weighing 5,000 lbs. / 2.5 tons	1
8	Water pump	5 gpm	1
9	backhoe	2 cy bucket	1
10	Grader	CAT 120 H or equivalent	1
11	Vibro-compactor	Handheld	1
12	Pick-up truck	Crew cab	1

d) The contractor must provide the following key staff and attach their respective CVs:

Item No.	No. of Key Staff	Title	Minimum years of General Construction experience	Minimum Specific experience
1	2	Project Manager/Civil Engineer	5	having completed at least one similar assignment over the last 5 years
2	1	Site Foreman	3	having completed at least one similar assignment over the last 3 years

e) Evidence of access to financial resources to successfully complete the works i.e. access to cash, letter from a bank, credit institutions, or other financial intermediary, supporting the availability of liquid financial resources in the amount of: BZD174,000.00.
f) Average annual turnover over the past 3 years (2023, 2022, 2021), supported by financial statements, equivalent to: BZD 625,000.00.
g) Completion Date: the works shall be completed as per the following completion schedule from the date of signature of the contract: 3 months (12 weeks).

The bidder must state exact completion time in its bid supported by its proposed construction schedule.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment/Resilient Rural Belize Programme now invites construction firms to submit bids for the construction of works as outlined in the Request for Bids (RFB) documentation. Contractor/s will be selected using the national competitive bidding (NCB) method in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook accessible at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall request the full bidding document by sending an e-mail, giving full contact details of the bidder, to the following point of contact. This will ensure that the bidders receive the full bidding document (RFB) as well as updates regarding this procurement procedure.

Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Attn: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer
Hummingbird Highway
National Agriculture Showgrounds,
City of Belmopan, Belize
E-mail: lpalacio.rrb@med.gov.bz
Copied to: Nadia Vernon, nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz

Please note that bids can be submitted either physically or electronically. In submitting a physical bid, the bidder must submit one (1) original and 2 copies, sealed in two separate inner envelopes, enclosed in one outer envelope, sealed and marked as per ITB 21.1 & 21.2, and addressed to the address stated above. In addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed outer envelope. Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected, single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the email address stated above. Full details are provided in the complete RFB document.

The pre-bid meeting shall be held at the following address: Resilient Rural Belize Programme Office, Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Show Grounds, City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, C.A. Pre-bid meeting and site visit shall be held. A site visit to the location (Los Buenos Amigos Cooperative Society Ltd. /Trio Village, Toledo District) will be held afterwards. The date and time of the pre-bid meeting is January 3, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. local time.

The deadline for submission of bids shall be no later than January 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the address above.

planBelize 2024 in Review

November 17 – Youth Power, Belize Bans Child Marriage

"Signal moment today with the passage of the Marriage Amendment Act !! The age for Marriage has been raised to 18 yrs. across the board. Big kudos to the Youth Parliamentarians who spearheaded this move !!!!" – **Minister Dolores Balderamos-Garcia**

November 24 – Record Floods: Meet Unprecedented Readiness & Response

News of another Tropical Storm headed to Belize was taken seriously by the Government of Belize and its arm mandated for emergencies, the National Emergency Management Organization. Tropical Storm Nadine earlier this year had been a test for the populace. We learned that any tropical rain event can bring water that can be damaging to our crops, livelihoods and even lives. And kudos to all Belizeans and its government, we were ready for Sara but of course that does not mean instant repair. We hear of lives lost even in the USA upon landfall of storms. But Belize, thanks God, is prepared enough to not lose lives. All credit goes to the collective people led by NEMO.

December 1 – EntreCon & Blaze Awards: Upgrading and Celebrating MSMEs

Belmide
BELIZE ENTRECON
7TH NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONVENTION 2024
POWERING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH BIG DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
November 29-30, 2024 • Belize Civic Center
What you will get:

The BIG winners here are the MSMEs of the country. Belize's MSME have come out of the pandemic more glorious than the phoenix and now can boast to be the largest employer in Belize. The position of women entrepreneurs in the large group is also leading making this version of ENTRECON and the Blaze Awards the right fit for the time—16 Days of Activism. Coincidental or not, the women are leading in MSMEs and in many sectors previously held by men. The Road Show attendees and winners are poised to celebrate their position in the economy of Belize. Onlookers and invitees can again be amazed on the level of business acumen our MSMEs have.

December 8 – Christmas is Lit: Lights & Shoppers Blaze All Over the Jewel

The Christmas trees are lit up and true to the planBelize times, the country is bustling. The Prime Minister spoke at the Belize City spectacular tree lighting extravaganza and spoke about helping those that need our help and about holding close those that you love. Also, he asked us to push our differences aside as this is a time of love, of sharing and holding those we love. He said that everyone is out to watch the flick of the switch because it means that "Christmas is here!"

December 10 – Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital in Belmopan

The Government of Belize and Dar Al Omran International Engineering Consulting Company (DAO) signed a US$1,634,981.27 (BZ$3,269,962.54) Consultancy Services Contract for the Design and Supervision of a Tertiary Level Teaching Hospital in Belmopan. Signing on behalf of the Government of Belize was the Financial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Waight, while the Managing Director, Mr. Yacoub Shubeilat, signed on behalf of DAO.

December 15 – NO GST Weekends; Partnering w/ People & Business

The Government of Belize (GOB) has unveiled an aggressive strategy to alleviate the cost-of-living pressures caused by global inflation. For the first time, General Sales Tax (GST) will be waived on local retail sales of all standard-rated goods on December 14, 15, 21, and 22, 2024. During these weekends, Belizeans can shop GST-free at stores nationwide, saving 12.5% on most purchases. Exceptions include motor vehicles, fuel, firearms, and alcohol. Imported goods will still incur GST, and the waiver applies only to immediate purchases—not items bought on credit, layaway, or wholesale.

December 22 – Fih We Boledo, Benefitting All Belizeans

3-4-4-6 was the winning number which saw the million dollars divided into 14shares right in time for Christmas. *"Fih we Boledo is benefitting all Belizeans"* was the message by the Prime Minister of Belize to his people as he rolled out the financials for the last year of the new Boledo. The Belize Government Lotteries Limited celebrated its First Anniversary by raffling a million dollars on the 21st of December. As expected there were many last minute buyers. Belizeans have been known to buy Boledo at the last hour and in this case the last day. It was easy for the BGLL to reward its customers and Belizeans.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Premier Duty Free Ltd.** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Premier Duty Free Ltd."** located at # 8 Fort Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Victor L. Bryant & Co. Ltd.** is applying for a **Publican General Liquor License** to be operated at **"Victor L. Bryant & Co. Ltd."** located at Res. Lake Independence, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Premier Duty Free Ltd. (Arrival)** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Premier Duty Free Ltd. Arrival"** located at P.G.I.A., Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kalis Habet** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"H Squared Investments Limited"** located at P.G.I.A., Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ramon Villanueva** is applying for a **Publican General Liquor License** to be operated at **"Rene's Store"** located at #75 Cemetery Rd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Midpoint Belize Limited** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Midpoint Belize Limited"** located at # 168 Newtown Barrack, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kishor Kumar Nandwani** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Corner Shop 7/11"** located at # 36 East Canal Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Grand Bay Resort Ltd.** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Grand Bay Resort Ltd. (Pool Side)"** located at # 5031 P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Grand Bay Resort Ltd.** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Grand Bay Resort Ltd. (Roof Top)"** located at # 5031 P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Grand Bay Resort Ltd.** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Grand Bay Resort Ltd."** located at # 5031 P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Huichan Chen Ou** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Secret Garden Restaurant & Bar"** located at # 5 Cork Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Aaron Gongora** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Pirate Enterprises Ltd."** located at # 776 Tranquil Lane, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Geraldine Roca** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"P.J.'s Hideaway"** located in Willow's Bank Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jiaxi Yu is** applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Wong Gok Restaurant"** located at # 11 6th Street, King's Park, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Haresh Vaswani** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Chill Out Restaurant & Bar"** located at # 50 Queen Victoria Avenue, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Luis A. Gonzalez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"TJ's Sports Bar"** located at # 2 Bethias Lane, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rogaciano Teck** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Otro Benque Beer Parlour"** located at # 84 Otro Benque, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Leidi L. Alvarado** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"La Esquinita Restaurant & Bar"** located in Cristo Rey Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Abner Swift** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Vista View Ltd."** located in Mosquitoville Crescent, S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Mehmi Enterprise** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Tandoor Restaurant"** located at # 19 Burns Ave., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alexandra & Jason Valdes** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Carnivore Belize Ltd."** located in # 31 Eve Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Welcome

2025

Happy New Year

From the Management & Staff of

smart!

Bringing People Together